

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

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TOPIC PS Battalion in Cheb

EVALUATION 25X1PLACE OBTAINED 25X1DATE OF CONTENT 27 June 1951DATE OBTAINED 25X1DATE PREPARED 10 September 1967REFERENCES PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE) 25X1REMARKS

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1. Prior to 27 June 1951, the PS battalion in Cheb (N 51/P 37) was subordinate to a PS brigade in Cheb which, in turn, was subordinate to Unit 25X1 in Prague. The PS brigade headquarters was located in a former monastery, where also the brigade's headquarters company and a penal company of politically unreliable personnel were quartered. Personalities of the PS brigade included Major Okrouhlik, (fmu), who was succeeded in command of the brigade by Captain Marcis, (fmu), in June 1951; Lieutenant Rysavy, (fmu), political officer; and Staff Captain Kalina, (fmu), brigade physician. Source knew of no other PS battalion in Cheb. *
2. The PS battalion was located in a three-story building about 1 km south of the Cheb railroad station and was commanded by Lieutenant Trojacek, (fmu). The headquarters building also billeted a unit which conducted checks at the Cheb railroad station. The PS battalion had five companies, namely the 21st Co in Sv. Kriz, 1 km south-southwest of Cheb; the 22d Co in Slapany (N 51/P 36); the 23d Co in Starý Hroznatov (N 51/P 36); the 24th Co in Kozly (N 51/P 36); and the 25th Co in Nytna (Albenrouth - N 51/P 36).
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soldiers of the company were instructed to use the terms "comrade" or "mister" instead of "soldier" to indicate the sender of letters. The company consisted of 40 men who included three veteran SSB members. Except for three Slovaks, the soldiers were Czechs. Several Slovaks had been replaced by Czechs in February 1951. The soldiers wore red-bordered green collars with a dog's head emblem. The 24th Co was quartered in two low wooden barracks buildings at the northern exit of Kozly.

4. The 24th Co was armed with 2 model 26 light machine guns, 1 model 37 heavy machine gun, hand grenades, models 48-A and 48-B submachine guns and, prior to April 1951, with German model 98-N rifles which were subsequently replaced by new Czech rifles.
5. The first record practice with rifles was held in November 1950, and the first practice with live hand grenades in May 1951. The first record practice with light machine guns was scheduled for 27 June 1951. The three dogs of the battalions were trained at the company in Sv. Kriz, A selectees' training school and an NCO school were also located in Cheb.

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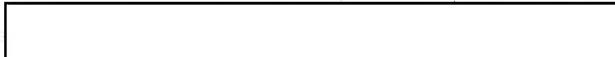
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6. The 24th Co controlled a border sector about 2.5 km long. The border zone was guarded by patrols of three men, with two patrols on duty during the day and three to four patrols at night. Trip wires to discharge signal rockets were laid in the border zone.
7. The PS company in Kozly was inspected by a Soviet colonel in May 1951. *

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* Comment. The report confirms previous information on the PS brigade and one PS battalion in Cheb.

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